

I am writing to urge you in the strongest terms to reject petition 04-160, filed by the National Association of Broadcasters.

For nearly two years I have been an XM Radio subscriber, at first a tentative one because I was unsure whether it would offer for a premium what I could get for free on broadcast radio. Since then, I have become an enthusiastic supporter of XM because it provides an excellent product for a reasonable price. In other words, it has proven itself competitive with other sources of information and entertainment.

90% of my listening to XM is in my car, and the addition of traffic and weather reports earlier this year has made for a major improvement to my driving experience in the Washington, DC area. A column devoted to traffic in the Washington Post entitled "Dr. Gridlock" has long noted complaints about the quality of traffic broadcasts in the Washington area. XM's traffic report is exactly what consumers have long demanded and is easily the best in Washington.

If local broadcasters find that people are listening to XM's traffic report instead of their own, they have a recourse -- broadcast a better report. I and hundreds of thousands of other listeners should not be denied this innovative service simply because local broadcasters are too lazy to compete.

I urge you to reject NAM's self-serving, anti-competitive and anti-consumer petition, and stay out of the way of this healthy and beneficial competition.